GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
PROTECTION TO ANIMALS IN CIRCUS SHOWS
Badi Shri Rajendra Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that proper protection is not being provided to Lions, Tigers and other animals in circus shows; and

(b) if so, the remedial action being taken to provide proper protection to these animals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following remedial actions for proper protection of animals in Circuses are taken:

(i) In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 22 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Central Government has banned five species of animals viz. Lions, Tigers, Panthers, Monkeys, Bears for exhibition and training as a performing animal vide Notification No.9-9/1997-AW dated 14th October, 1998. In pursuance to the notification, the Circus companies who are in possession of the banned species of animals have been directed to hand over the animals to the Central Zoo Authority for rehabilitating the animals through rescue centers / zones.

(ii) In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) & (2) of section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Central Government has notified Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 under which it is incumbent upon any person desirous of training or exhibiting a performing animal to register itself with the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), an autonomous body under the aegis of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(iii) The circus companies are required to intimate their movement and send the monthly report on the health of animals certified by the Veterinary Doctors to Animal Welfare Board of India.

(iv) As and when a complaint is received, the concerned circus company is inspected by the Wildlife Experts and Veterinarians nominated by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and follow up action taken based on the inspection report.